



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

h

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/729,128	12/05/2003	Charles A. Odegard	TI-35691	9004
23494	7590	03/14/2005	EXAMINER	
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INCORPORATED			DANG, PHUC T	
P O BOX 655474, M/S 3999			ART UNIT	
DALLAS, TX 75265			PAPER NUMBER	
			2818	

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/729,128	Applicant(s) ODEGARD ET AL.	
	Examiner PHUC T. DANG	Art Unit 2818	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on election filed on February 8, 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-4 and 12-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>030804</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2818

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election filed on February 8, 2005 has been acknowledged.

In election, Applicants elect Group II (claims 5-11) for examination at this time.

Applicants have the right to file a divisional application covering the subject matter of the non-elected claims (claims 1-4 and 12-15).

2. Claims 1-4 and 12-15 are non-elected claims and still pending in the application.

Oath/Declaration

3. The oath/declaration filed on December 5, 2003 is acceptable.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. The office acknowledges receipt of the following items from the applicant:

Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on March 8, 2004.

Specification

5. The specification has been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. However, the applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary

Art Unit: 2818

skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 5, 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over You et al., hereinafter, "Yoo" (U.S. Patent No. 6,591,161) in view of Grutzediek et al., hereinafter, "Grutzediek" (U.S. Patent No. 5,779,425).

Regarding claim 5, You discloses an apparatus for receiving, storing, transmitting, and releasing manufactured products, the apparatus suitable for insertion into the manufacturing flow at various stages of product fabrication, comprising:

a chamber (20, Fig. 1) for maintaining specified environments; the chamber having a computer controlled (105, Fig. 2A) entry and exit (18, Fig. 1A);

a transport system (16, Fig. 1A) connecting the entry and exit (18, Fig. 1A), the system including movable platforms (14, Fig. 1A) suitable for transporting the product; and

a computer-controlled monitors (101, Fig. 2B) for position and time of the platforms (14, Fig. 1A), the monitors (101, Fig. 2A) operable to achieve a balanced product throughput through the chamber [col. 3, lines 45-col. 4, lines 58].

Yoo discloses all the features of the claimed invention as discussed above, but does not disclose the system designed to create waiting lines for the product loaded on the platforms.

Grutzediek, however, discloses the system designed to create waiting lines for the product loaded on the platforms [col. 5, lines 55-62].

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above teaching of Yoo discussed above as taught by

Art Unit: 2818

Grutzediek to improve an apparatus for receiving, storing, transmitting, and releasing manufactured products.

Regarding claim 7, Yoo discloses the product comprises semiconductor devices [col. 3, lines 37-39].

Regarding claim 11, Yoo discloses the inlets and outlets are supported by sensors feeding their observations back to the computer control [Figs. 1A-2B and col. 5, lines 15-22].

7. Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoo and Grutzediek in view of Murakami et al., hereinafter, "Murakami" (U.S. Patent No. 4,989,444).

Regarding claims 8-10, Yoo and Grutzediek disclose all the features of the claimed invention as discussed above, but do not disclose the structures of the waiting lines.

Murakami, however, discloses the structures of the waiting lines [col. 6, lines 1-5] as disclosed in claims 8-10 above.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above teaching of Yoo and Grutzediek discussed above as taught by Murakami for a purpose of improving an apparatus for receiving, storing, transmitting, and releasing manufactured products.

Conclusion

8. **Applicants are advised to cancel the non-elected claims (claims 1-4 and 12-15) in response to the next Office action if the application is considered to be allowed.**

Art Unit: 2818

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuc T. Dang whose telephone number is (571) 272-1776. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am-5:00 pm.

10. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David C. Nelms can be reached on (571) 272-1787. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and After Final communications.

11. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Phuc T. Dang

Primary Examiner

Art Unit 2818

P.D. 